CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of a bacterial vaccine vector, the method comprising:

a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector;

b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal;

c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal, and;

d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) until a maximum bacterial load in an organ is reached, thereby enhancing the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses an antigen.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the antigen is a heterologous antigen.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a mouse.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.

10. A bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity wherein the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector is enhanced by

a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector;

b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal;

c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal, and;

d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) until a maximum bacterial load in an organ is reached.

11. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10 wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.

12. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10 wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses an antigen.

13. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12 wherein the antigen is a heterologous antigen.

14. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12 wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

15. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.

16. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the animal is a mammal.

17. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 16, wherein the mammal is a mouse.

18. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.

19. The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10 wherein the bacterial vaccine vector comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of an antigen expressed from a bacterial vaccine vector, the method comprising:

a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector;

b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal;

c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal, and;

d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) until a maximum bacterial load in an organ is reached, thereby enhancing the immunogenicity of the antigen expressed from a bacterial vaccine vector.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the antigen is a heterologous antigen.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the animal is a mammal.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the mammal is a mouse.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.

28. A kit comprising a bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity, wherein the kit comprises an applicator and an instructional material for use thereof.

29. The kit of claim 28 wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is lyophilized.

30. The kit of claim 28 wherein the kit further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.